#2 A DREAMING CHITOSE AND THE BITTER REALITY

YOU KNOW HOW ANIME LIFE CYCLES HAVE GOTTEN SHORTER THESE DAYS?
I THINK THE SAME THING APPLIES TO VOICE ACTORS, TOO.
THAT BASICALLY MEANS WE'LL BE THE ONES CALLING THE SHOTS SOON. IT'S OUR WIN! YEAH!
YOU'RE AMAZING, CHII-CHAN!
HMPH... I KNOW.

BUT WOW, YOU'RE ALREADY FIGURING OUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO AFTER YOU SELL, HUH?

FUEH...?

GOSH, YAE KNOWS WHAT TO FOCUS ON, DOESN'T SHE?
...CRAP, THAT IS SO TRUE.

I MEAN, A LIFE CYCLE...? IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT'S SHORT,
DOESN'T THAT MEAN SOMEONE LIKE ME WOULD DISAPPEAR RIGHT AWAY?
AH.

SUPPOSEDLY IT'S AMAZING TO BE CALLED EVERY WEEK RIGHT AFTER DEBUTING, EVEN IT'S JUST TO ACT AS A MOB OR MINOR CHARACTER...
IT HASN'T SUNK IN FOR ME, THOUGH...
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL ME A REGULAR, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A NAMED ROLE OR ANYTHING...

※PROGRAM REGULAR = TO ACT REGULARLY EVERY WEEK (AS A MOB)

THIS WAS WHAT I WAS EXPECTING TO HAPPEN AT FIRST.
SHINE
THEN AGAIN, IF AN UN-SELLABLE VOICE ACTOR LIKE ME IS CONSIDERED TO BE DOING WELL,
THIS INDUSTRY REALLY IS INSANE.
SFX: WOOO!
CHITOSE-CHAAAN!
THANKS SO MUCH FOR COMING TODAY!
YOU'RE SO CUTE!!
BOOM
BOOM
HUGE HIT NEWBIE
Single BEST 1

...AT LEAST,
THAT WAS THE FLASHY DEBUT I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HAVE...
NOM
...

THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO WERE MOVED TO TEARS FROM YOUR ACTING. YOU KNOW?
...A-HAHA.

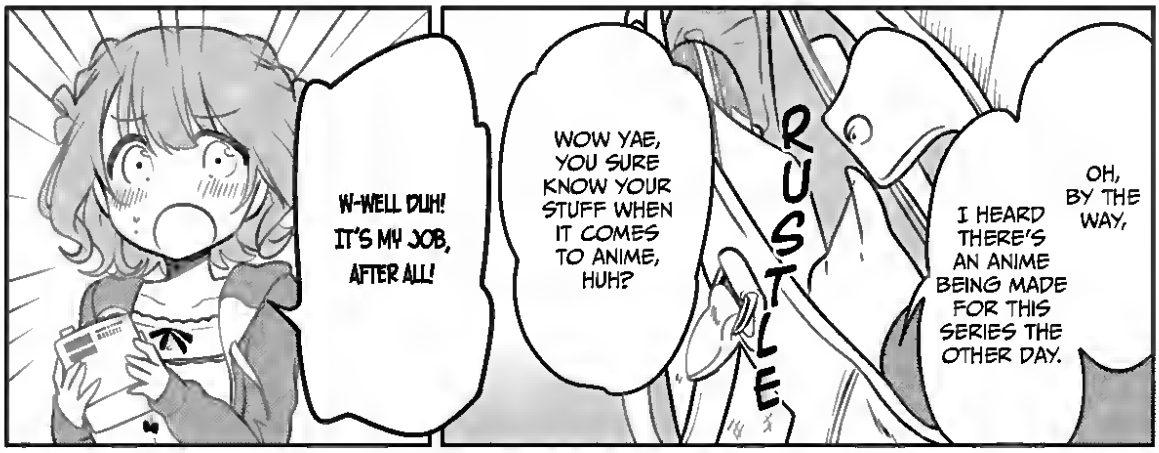
YOU'RE SO AMAZING, CHII-CHAN!! YOU WERE EVEN AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS BACK IN ACTING SCHOOL, TOO.
...AHH, RIGHT, ACTING SCHOOL...

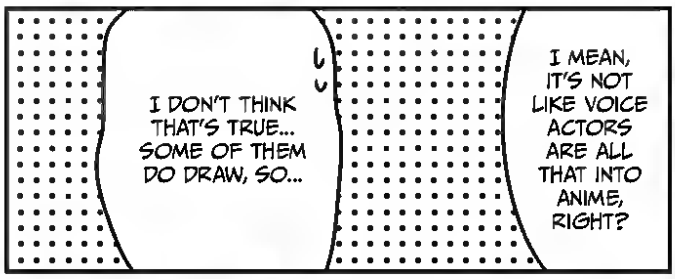
GREAT, REMINDS ME OF THAT ONE TIME...
YOU COME ACROSS THESE KINDS OF GUYS SOME-TIMES.
THAT BLEW ME AWAY...!
THE ONES THAT START CRYING AFTER SEEING THE RECORDING OF THE GIRL HE LIKES...

AND THEN SUDDENLY, THEY'LL CALL OUT TO YOU AS YOU HEAD HOME...
I LIKE YOU...
RUN
Hey! Wa-!
ANYONE WOULD FREAK OUT IF SOME STRANGER TOLD THEM SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
Attended all-girls middle and high schools
AFTER THAT HAPPENED, I ENDED UP KEEPING MY DISTANCE,
BECAUSE I THOUGHT ALL THE PEOPLE THERE AT THE ACTING SCHOOL WERE TOTAL CREEPS...
AND SO,
YAE ENDED UP BEING MY ONLY FRIEND FROM THOSE DAYS...
...?
...YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD GIRL, YAE.
...HEH!?
CONSIDERING HOW I TEND TO SCREW AROUND A LOT AND GET DEPRESSED EASILY, IT'S A WONDER HOW YAE'S STILL MY FRIEND...
IF IT WAS ME, I TOTALLY WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN BOTHERED

Phew...
BUT... I STILL LIKE YAE A LOT INCLUDING THAT PART OF HER.

FIDGET...
...SHE TOTALLY THINKS SHE IS.
TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE...
SCRATCH SCRATCH


W-WELL DUH! IT'S MY JOB, AFTER ALL!
WOW YAE, YOU SURE KNOW YOUR STUFF WHEN IT COMES TO ANIME, HUH?
RUSTLE
I HEARD THERE'S AN ANIME BEING MADE FOR THIS SERIES THE OTHER DAY.
OH, BY THE WAY,

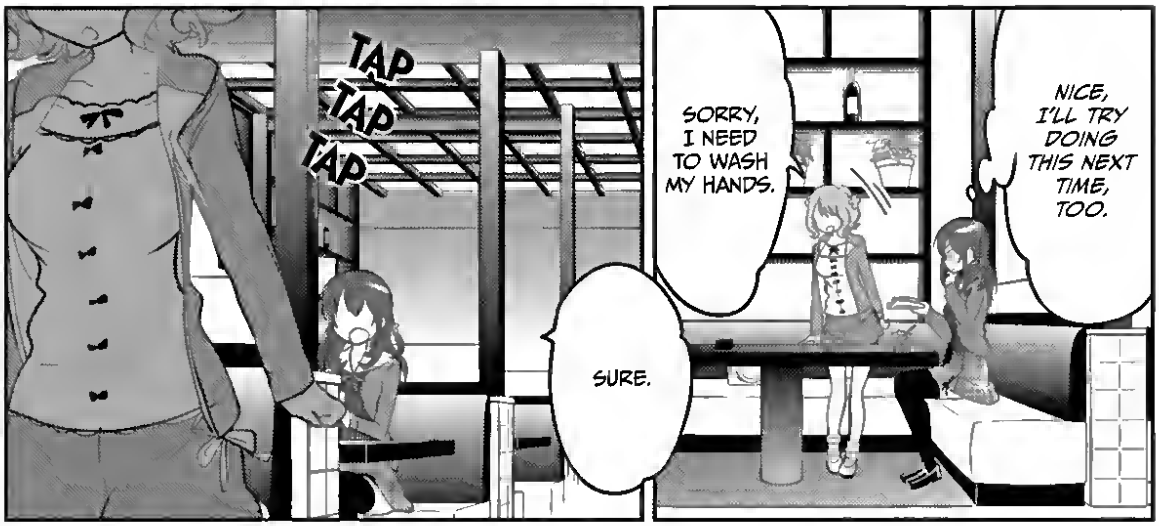

I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE... SOME OF THEM DO DRAW, SO...
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE VOICE ACTORS ARE ALL THAT INTO ANIME, RIGHT?

SLAM
SLAM
IT'S JUST THAT YOU DON'T CARE ENOUGH, CHII-CHAN!
YOU THINK SO?

AHH... SPEAKING OF WHICH, SOME PEOPLE DO DRAW IN THEIR SCRIPT WHEN THEY HAVE FREE TIME...
UHOHOH...

HUH? WHY AM I A VOICE ACTOR AGAIN?
I LIKE ANIME, TOO.
BUT I FEEL IT'S CLOSER TO HOW THE AVERAGE PERSON WOULD LIKE TO READ OR WATCH A MOVIE...
OH! MY BAD, MY BAD.
...CHII-CHAN?
FLIP FLIP
I...
I'M NOT SURE...
...
S... SELL...!?
SO WHAT, DOES IT SEEM LIKE THAT ANIME WILL SELL?

I-I DON'T REALLY GET THAT KIND OF STUFF TOO WELL.
BUT I REALLY LIKE THIS SERIES A LOT!
OHH... WHAT A PERFECT ANSWER.
I'll make sure to use it next time.
THEY'RE GOING TO HOLD AUDITIONS SOON, TOO.
HOH...
!
FLAP...
YAE...
ARE YOU FOR REAL...?
IF YOU WALKED INTO THE AUDITION WITH THIS MARKED-UP VOLUME,
WOULDN'T YOU SCORE THAT ROLE RIGHT THEN AND THERE...?


TAP
TAP
TAP
SURE.
SORRY, I NEED TO WASH MY HANDS.
NICE, I'LL TRY DOING THIS NEXT TIME, TOO.

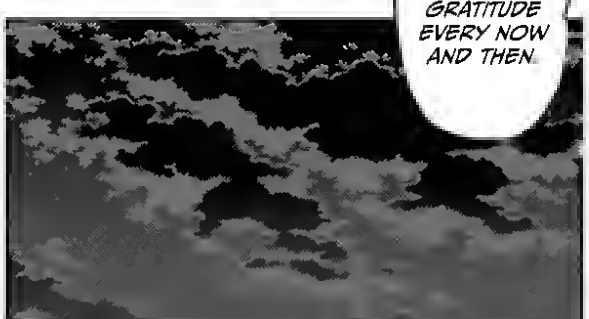
PLANNING AROUND THE ORIGINAL... NO...
PLANNING AROUND THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR MIGHT BE THE BETTER WAY OF PUTTING IT,
BUT THIS KIND OF TEDIOUS WORK MIGHT ACTUALLY BE PRETTY CRUCIAL.

ANIME IS A PRODUCT OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, AFTER ALL.
IT ISN'T CREATED FROM JUST PURE TALENT OR ABILITY ALONE.

Chitose
GEEEHH...
TICK
か
さ
BECAUSE THERE'S AT LEAST ONE PERSON WHO I CAN ABSOLUTELY RELY ON TO BE MY ALLY.
SO IN THAT RESPECT, I MIGHT BE PRETTY FORTUNATE.

Gojo
I will kill you
BZZ ZZZZ ZZZ ZZZ ZZ
!

Chitose
What time are you gonna be home?
...WELL...
I GUESS I CAN SHOW HIM MY GRATITUDE EVERY NOW AND THEN.



...

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

THIS IS THE HEROIC RADIO OF THE "WARRIOR FROM ANOTHER WORLD"!!

SO LIKE, I BOUGHT THIS NEW LAUNDRY MACHINE LAST WEEK.
EHH, YOU DID? THAT'S CRAZY.
Hmph...

OOOH... IT'S SO RELAXING HOW MELLOW THEY ARE WITH EACH OTHER...
IT'S THAT STRANGE FEELING OF PEACE YOU GET WHEN IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE LISTENING OR NOT.
A RADIO PROGRAM FOR POPULAR VOICE ACTORS...
IF THIS KIND OF NONCHALANT CHATTING IS ALL IT TAKES TO GET MONEY, WOULDN'T THIS BE A PIECE OF CAKE FOR ME?
or not... I probably just have the wrong idea.
NEXT UP IS A LETTER.
"WHAT WAS THE TRIGGER THAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME A VOICE ACTOR?"
IT SAYS.
THE TRIGGER, HUH? LET'S SEE...
THE TRIGGER, HUH...?
MAKES ME WONDER WHAT I WOULD SAY...

Career Aspirations Surve
Year Class Name
(1) Aspir
radu
2ND YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL
A VOICE ACTOR, HUH...?
SPIN
SPIN
OM
BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK, GOJO?
WE WEREN'T AGAINST THE IDEA WHEN YOUR BROTHER WANTED TO DO IT.

WELL, IT'S DEFINITELY NOT A JOB CHITOSE CAN LIVE THE EASY LIFE WITH.
HA
SHE PROBABLY THINKS THAT THINGS WILL WORK OUT SINCE SHE'S YOUNG, BUT THE FUTURE'S NOT THAT FORGIVING, DON'T YOU THINK?
HMPH!

...BUT LOOK, GOJO-KUN'S WORKING AS A MANAGER.
THAT'S TRUE. IT CERTAINLY WOULD GIVE YOUR FATHER PEACE OF MIND IF YOU WORKED AT GOJO'S AGENCY.
SO I COULD EASILY JUMP IN WITHOUT AN ISSUE!

UGH...
YOU WERE ABLE TO, THOUGH.

THERE'S NO WAY IT'D BE THAT EASY.
BESIDES, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF CHITOSE CAN BECOME A VOICE ACTOR OR NOT.

...
YOU KNOW HOW THERE'S BEEN A BOOM IN IDOL VOICE ACTORS THESE DAYS?
I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT HOW DARN CUTE I AM, SEE?
SMILE
I CAN TOTALLY DO IT, YEAH!
Haaaa...
YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
YOU REALIZE THAT, RIGHT?
OH, PLEASE. SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, GOJO-KUN.

T/N: MARCH IS A REFERENCE TO 5 UNIVERSITIES: MEIJI, AOYAMA-GAKUIN, RIKKYO, CHUO, AND HOSEI. THESE UNIVERSITIES ARE PLACED ON A RANKING SCALE THAT DETERMINES PLACINGS BASED ON NATIONAL TEST SCORE AVERAGES. 2CHAN OFTEN USES "MARCH MARCH" AS A WAY TO MAKE FUN OF THOSE WHO GOT INTO THESE SCHOOLS.

NOT ONLY DID MY HIGH SCHOOL HAVE BETTER TEST AVERAGES THAN YOURS.
THE UNIVERSITY YOU DIDN'T GET INTO WAS JUST A B-RANKED SCHOOL!!
YOU MARCH SUCKER!!
...I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, YOU DAMN BRAT.
OH! YEAH?
WANNA GO? SUCKER!
SH
SH SHSH
creak

...CHITOSE.
YOU'RE TOO NAIVE.
IT'S TRUE THAT ONLY A HANDFUL OF VOICE ACTORS ARE SELLABLE.
...FRANKLY SPEAKING, IT'S NOT A JOB WORTH DREAMING ABOUT.
FOR THE RECORD, NO RELYING ON OUR PARENTS.
GRRRRR
RIGHT... BUT I SHOULD BE FINE THERE, RI—
AND EVEN IF YOU DID MANAGE TO BECOME ONE, YOU'LL BARELY BE SCRAPING BY IN THE FUTURE.

...THEN I'LL JUST GET MARRIED TO SOMEONE IMPORTANT!!
...YOU ARE SUCH AN IDIOT, I SWEAR.
I MEAN, WHAT ABOUT THE ORIGINAL AUTHORS? LIKE THE ONES FROM J*MP?
YOU CAN'T MARRY A MANGAKA.
...
IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO MARRY, THEN IT HAS TO BE SOMEONE WITH A MORE STABLE INCOME.
MARRY AN EDITOR.
THAT'S IT!
RATTLE
NO, IT ISN'T...

...I WANT TO DO IT AS A PROPER JOB, NOT AS SOME KIND OF HOBBY.
I WON'T STOP YOU IF YOU WANT TO GO TO ACTING SCHOOL AS A HOBBY, THOUGH.
IF ALL YOU WANT IS MONEY, THEN DO SOMETHING ELSE.
TWITCH
...!
...OHHH?

AND THAT REALLY GRINDS MY GEARS...!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S TESTING ME...
WHY'S HE BEING SO SERIOUS, ANYWAY?
UH... CRAP, I LOST WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY...
I MEAN, SEE...
GRIP...
IN THAT CASE...
I JUST DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING BORING!

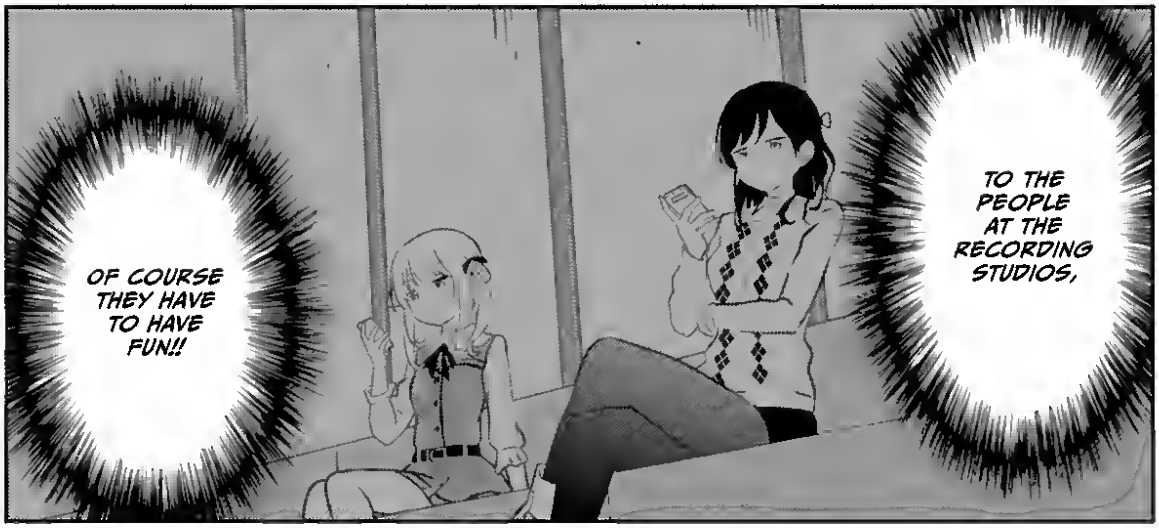
YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? YOU'VE BEEN CALLING ME AN IDIOT THIS ENTIRE TIME!
GULP...
...HAAA.
POP
URG...
THAT'S...
YOU'RE AS MUCH OF AN IDIOT AS I AM, SEEING HOW YOU'RE WORKING IN THAT INDUSTRY, GOJO-KUN!

WELL. I SUPPOSE IT WOULDN'T HURT TO TRY?
!
REALLY!? IS IT OKAY!?
RATTLE
YES.
WE DID GIVE GOJO OUR SUPPORT WHEN HE DECIDED ON IT AS WELL.
YOU CAN KEEP AT IT UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED, CHITOSE.
SMUG
SMUG
...
FUHIHI. IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL THE PRIVILEGE OF THE YOUNGEST?
BUT YOU MUST ATTEND COLLEGE AS WELL.
OKAAAAAAY!!
GOT IT!
I'LL DO MY BEST AT BOTH!
THAT WAY, YOUR FATHER WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT.
oh shucks, I'm so blessed to have such an understanding mother!
PAT PAT
PAT PAT
AND THAT'S HOW I GOT STARTED ON MY PATH AS A VOICE ACTOR.

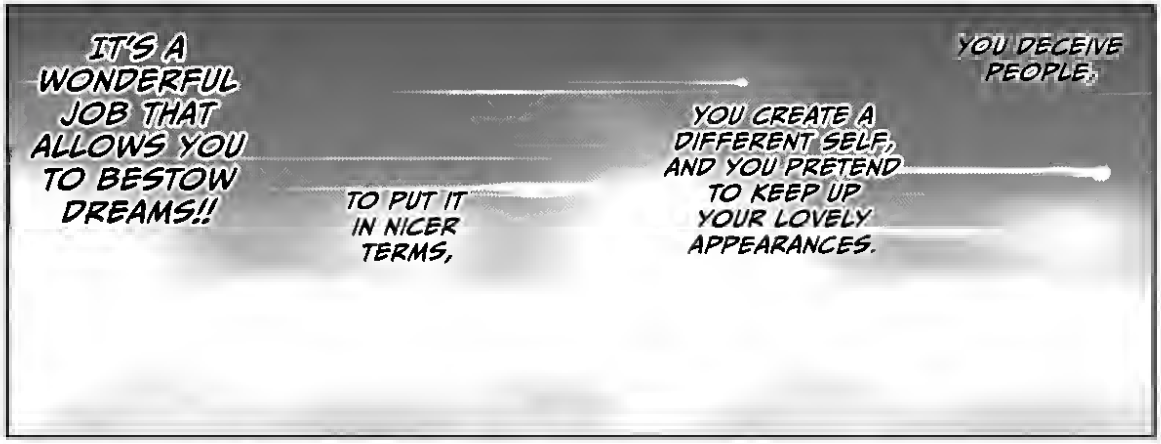
BUT REALITY JUST ISN'T THAT SIMPLE.
I MAYBE OCCASIONALLY MANAGE TO GET GET A ROLE AS A MOB CHARACTER.
BOOOOO..
Again...?
FAILED.
NOT ONLY HAVE I NOT BEEN SEEING MUCH SUCCESS AT ANY OF MY AUDITIONS,
RATTLE RATTLE
HOW WEIRD...
I FIGURED I'D BE LIKE SONOU MOMOKA.
GETTING JOBS LEFT AND RIGHT WHILE BEING YOUNG AND ALL.
SONOU MOMOKA,
SHE'S STILL ONLY IN HIGH SCHOOL, APARENTLY.

HA...
...AND THAT'S BASICALLY HOW THE DUBBING SESSIONS GO
!
JEEZ, THE THINGS THEY TALK ABOUT ARE WORSE THAN TRASH.
WHAT A TOTAL BORE.
...BUT,
TAKE OUT THOSE BORING PARTS.
AND IT'S CRAZY INTEREST-ING.
WE'RE LIKE SUCH GREAT FRIENDS AND ALL.
...

IT'S ALWAYS SO FUN ON-SITE,
...OH, TOTALLY!
AND WE EVEN GO OUT TO EAT TOGETHER, RIGHT? THAT'S ALWAYS FUN, TOO.
NOW THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
WE DO, WE DO!

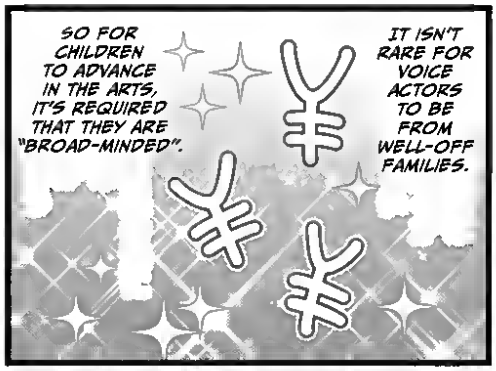

TO THE PEOPLE AT THE RECORDING STUDIOS,
OF COURSE THEY HAVE TO HAVE FUN!!

THE FACT THAT YOU CAN EVEN SAY THOSE ENVIRONMENTS ARE FUN IS INTERESTING.


IT'S A WONDERFUL JOB THAT ALLOWS YOU TO BESTOW DREAMS!!
TO PUT IT IN NICER TERMS,
YOU CREATE A DIFFERENT SELF, AND YOU PRETEND TO KEEP UP YOUR LOVELY APPEARANCES.
YOU DECEIVE PEOPLE.

THAT'S WHY, AS ODD AS THIS MIGHT SOUND COMING FROM ME,
I THINK THIS INDUSTRY IS REALLY MESSED UP.

REALITY


SO FOR CHILDREN TO ADVANCE IN THE ARTS, IT'S REQUIRED THAT THEY ARE "BROAD-MINDED".
IT ISN'T RARE FOR VOICE ACTORS TO BE FROM WELL-OFF FAMILIES.

SO AS FAR AS OUR FINANCIAL STANDING IS CONCERNED, WE'RE KINDA IN THE GREEN!
IN THAT RESPECT, OUR TWO PARENTS HAPPEN TO BE WORKING AT DECENT COMPANIES.
Amen, amen!

gi(a)rlish number

Comic by Yuuki Doumoto / Based on Story by Wataru Watari
Based on Character Design by QP:flapper